



THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR**
TO THE
PENZANCE BOROUGH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR
1947

Public Health Officers of the Authority

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

W. K. DUNSCOMBE.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR:

A. T. HARPER.

SANITARY INSPECTORS:


R. E. WARBURTON.

F. PICKERING.

HEALTH VISITORS:

MISS E. TONKIN.

MRS. J. TREMEARNE.



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,
PENZANCE.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,
BOROUGH OF PENZANCE.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In retrospect the year 1947 was one of very mixed blessings. Starting with weather of exceptional severity, particularly for Cornwall, followed by disastrous flooding and then continuous sunshine for nearly three months resulting in a series of droughts which have so seriously depleted the water resources of the country as to have an adverse effect for years. Added to this we have had a fuel, and a financial crisis, and rationing has been stricter than ever before.

These are debits enough, but on the credit side there has been a slow moving upward and a gradual appreciation that God helps them who help themselves, but there is no question that the continual exasperations and frustrations of enforced austerity have had a profound psychological effect on the public generally and so on the public health, and we are in danger of becoming a nation of inverted Micawbers waiting for something worse to turn up.

However, as regards "Public Health" or Social Medicine, to give it a "posh" name, we are still ignorant of the types of illness which though incapacitating very large numbers of persons yearly do not so far figure in any annual return of a Medical Officer of Health. It is hoped that the new arrangements which are to be made all over the country for the prevention and care of disease will include methods by which the Medical Officer of Health as the local epidemiologist will be able to obtain information on the incidence of diseases other than those at present notifiable.

In conclusion, I should like to record my appreciation of the help given by the Council, and officers of other departments, and also should especially like to thank the staff of the Health Department for the hard work they have done.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. K. DUNSCOMBE,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area: 3,578 acres.

Population: Registrar-General's estimate, mid-year 1947, 20,050.

Rateable Value: £126,516. Product of penny rate: £496.
No. of inhabited houses: 5,838.

<i>No. of livebirths:</i>			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	187	201	388
Illegitimate	...	...	16	12	28

Rate per 1,000 population: 20.7.

<i>No. of stillbirths:</i>			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	5	5	10
Illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1

Rate per 1,000 total births: 25.8.

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>No. of deaths:</i>	...	...	136	157	293

Rate per 1,000 population: 14.6.

<i>No. of infant deaths:</i>			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	9	6	15
Illegitimate	—	1	1

Rate per 1,000 livebirths: 38.5.

<i>Maternal deaths:</i>			1	1
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Rate per 1,000 total births: 2.3.

SECTION B.
Deaths from all causes

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	6	7	13
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	1	1	2
Influenza	2	—	2
Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F)	1	3	4
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	7	7	14
Cancer of breast	—	4	4
Cancer of all other sites	12	19	31
Diabetes	1	3	4
Intracranial vascular lesions ...	12	29	41
Heart disease	29	37	66
Other diseases of circulatory system	4	9	13
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Pneumonia	9	8	17
Other respiratory diseases	5	—	5
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	4	1	5
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other digestive diseases	3	3	6
Nephritis	6	6	12
Premature births	2	1	3
Congen, malformations, birth injuries, inf. diseases	4	3	7
Other maternal causes	—	1	1
Suicide	2	—	2
Road traffic, accident	2	—	2
Other violent causes	3	5	8
All other causes	16	9	25
ALL CAUSES	136	157	293

Principal Causes of Death

	Male	Female	Total
1. Heart disease	29	37	66
2. Cancer	20	33	53
3. Intracranial vascular lesions	12	29	41
4. Pneumonia	9	8	17
5. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	6	7	13
6. Other diseases of circulatory system	4	9	13
7. Nephritis	6	6	12

SECTION C.

Climate, 1947

The details with mean maxima and minima are as follows:

			<i>Mean</i>		<i>Rain</i>	<i>Hours of</i>
			<i>Max.</i>	<i>Min.</i>	<i>inches</i>	<i>Sunshine</i>
January	...	...	46	36	5.24	61.6
February	...	...	41	31	2.37	32.8
March	...	...	50	39	9.43	94.1
April	...	...	55	43	2.87	168.4
May	...	...	58	48	2.71	193.6
June	...	...	63	51	3.44	184.7
July	...	...	66	54	2.09	172.7
August	...	...	74	58	0.84	277.4
September	...	...	67	54	1.46	174.0
October	...	...	58	49	1.81	141.6
November	...	...	55	47	3.55	55.1
December	...	...	50	42	3.46	45.1

Total rainfall: 39.27 inches.

Total hours of sunshine: 1,601.1

On January 30th the minimum temperature of 17 deg. was the lowest ever recorded at Penzance. August 16th registered the highest temperature (85 deg.) for the past fifty years.

The table of temperatures tells its story as the year was one of the most varied in climatic conditions ever seen in the County. From the months of January to March the heaviest snowfalls seen in a lifetime occurred added to hard frost of considerable duration, and though we were extremely fortunate to escape the disastrous flooding elsewhere which well nigh wrecked the country's food hopes, almost unbroken sunny weather with a severe drought in the summer and autumn contributed to the unusual picture, so much so that at the end of December the local springs and reservoirs were at the lowest for many years. Even so, this part of Cornwall should be justly praised for its winter climate, which is kind to sufferers from bronchitis, and with better publicity and entertainment would surely go far to counter the vaunted attractions of the Cote d'Azur. The Cornish Riviera should be more than a name on the destination boards of a crack express.

SECTION D.

Maternity and Child Welfare

This is really the swan song for this service as provided by the borough. Last year I mentioned that many would regret its passing into other hands but since this is settled it is up to us to see that the people are given the best service possible. Nothing that can, however, be said is that the town will be handing over as efficient provision of this nature as any town of its size in the country. This has been due to team work, first in the wise and close interest of the Council, and then to the excellent work done by my predecessor, and last but by no means least, to the Health Visitors. The mothers and babies of this town owe it to themselves to see that they get at least as good a service if not better after July 5th, 1948.

1. INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

- (a) 17 mothers were admitted to the County Council's Maternity Unit at Redruth during 1947, under the Council's scheme. Of these 6 patients met their full fees and 11 were assisted.
- (b) No children were placed in the care of Public Assistance Nurseries during 1947, but 4 children went to nurseries of various charities.

2. ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

Again during 1947, this clinic has been of great assistance in dealing with cases referred to them from the clinics, and in the Home Visiting. ...

3. DENTAL TREATMENT.

Eight expectant or nursing mothers have received dental treatment under the Council's scheme and in addition five of the 1946 list of 15 mothers completed their treatment.

4. VISITS TO:**(i) EXPECTANT MOTHERS:**

	1946		1947
1st visits	168	1st visits	130
Total visits	350	Total visits	231

(ii) CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE :

	1946		1947
1st visits	500	1st visits	351
Total visits	1,536	Total visits	1,601

(iii) TO CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 1 AND 5 YEARS :

	1946		1947
	2,443		874

(iv) VISITS TO BOARDED-OUT CHILDREN (NOT INCLUDED IN ABOVE TOTAL):

	1946			1947	
	Under	Over		Under	Over
	1 yr.	1 yr.		1 yr.	1 yr.
	77	149		83	219

5. ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

Total number of women who attended at the clinics for the first time during the year, and the total attendances are :

	<i>Ante-Natal</i>		<i>Post-Natal</i>
	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total attendances</i>	<i>Attendances</i>
1946	74	153	4
1947	58	89	3

6. INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

The Council's four welfare centres have continued to be active throughout 1947 and have operated as formerly.

PENZANCE (one weekly session).

HEAMOOR (two sessions per month).

NEWLYN (two sessions per month).

MOUSEHOLE (two sessions per month).

The total number of children who attended at the centres for the first time during the year is as follows :

		1946	1947
(i) Infants under 1 year of age ...	...	241	249
(ii) Children over 1 year of age ...	...	17	21
(iii) Total attendances under 1 year	...	2,337	2,504
(iv) Total attendances over 1 year	...	550	560

Percentage of livebirths represented in (i) above :

	1946	1947
	50.7	67.4

7. CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

There has been no lessening of the activity of this branch of the Maternity and Child Welfare service during 1947.

Great demands have been made on the Borough foster mothers who have always responded well. The lack of a day nursery in the Borough frequently places the Health Visitors in a difficult position and on several occasions applications have been referred to Residential Nurseries beyond the Borough, and even beyond the County, because no facility has been available in Penzance.

Waiting lists have been introduced for the foster homes in the Borough.

In 1946 six foster mothers received thirty-one foster children as compared with 1947, when eight foster mothers received forty-one foster children.

The adoption of two children has been approved by the Penzance Magistrates, and five children have been transferred to other areas for adoption. In each instance where a child has gone to another area pending adoption, an escort has been provided from this end.

Prosecution for neglect.

With the co-operation of the N.S.P.C.C. a case of neglect was proved, and a sentence of six months imprisonment imposed on the parents concerned. Subsequently the family of four children were placed under care and protection through the Education Authority.

8. INFANT MORTALITY.

This was slightly lower than last year but the deaths of children under one year of age should not really be considered apart from the number of births. Recently there has been another outcry demanding a population policy and deploring the fall in the birthrate. The position, however, requires to be viewed on a larger scale and without going into economics, the facts are quite simple and very obvious.

(a) There is still an excess of births over deaths in these islands, therefore the population is still increasing.

(b) More and more persons are living to relatively old ages *i.e.*, beyond their useful working lives, and so have to be maintained by the efforts of others.

(c) The present population is approaching fifty millions and even using the most scientific methods of farming, etc., we can only feed at the maximum 60 per cent from our own resources.

(d) The result is that we have to spend a great deal of money from the proceeds of our exports merely to buy food from elsewhere. This was the case even before the last war but then we had sources of income abroad that allowed us to buy food there. We haven't got these any longer as we spent them in the war.

(e) The remedy is *export* — to the Dominions for example—not only of goods, but of *population of all ages*, old, young, rich, poor, as obviously we could even less afford to export the younger members of the community and retain the older ones.

It will be appreciated that such a large migration of population as would be necessary would be a matter of decision at the highest level. Nevertheless, it must be faced, otherwise we shall become the world's pensioners.

In any case the fall in the birth rate is a factor found in all the western European countries and in the white population of the U.S.A., so that it is unlikely that any population policy for Britain will do anything to materially affect the main issue.

9. ANTE-NATAL CARE.

The Council's ante-natal clinics held fortnightly could and should be better attended, but in providing a proper service for expectant mothers there should also be adequate ante-natal beds in hospital where persons suffering from complications of pregnancy can be admitted for rest and treatment. X

During the year there has been a good deal of discussion between the West Cornwall Hospital and the Ministry of Health regarding the provision of a maternity unit at the hospital and though at the moment progress is not rapid, we may get this unit quicker than was at one time thought possible. It is essential therefore that in such a unit there should be adequate provision of ante-natal beds. Not less than one-third of the total should be the figure to be aimed at.

10. CARE OF CHILDREN.

In my last report I drew attention to the arrangements suggested by the Curtis Committee and the implications of this, and pointed out that the Government were proposing to give the Home Office the central responsibility.

This is the arrangement proposed in the Children's Act. Thus to a department already at its wit's end how to cope with the problem of maintaining the police forces of the country at their proper levels, which is one of its main functions, is added a completely new service of an entirely different nature of which it has had little or no previous experience.

Since one of the fundamental problems in dealing with these "deprived" children is to educate them in good citizenship, the job should have been given to the Ministry of Education and the Local Education Authorities, as they already deal with some boarded-out children, and almost invariably where a child is brought before the Court as being in need of care and protection, if it is a question of "fit person", the Education Committee of the Local Authority is the body asked to act. They deal now with both normal and mentally defective children and it should have been their responsibility.

I have written strongly about this twice as in this borough the care of children has been carried out better than in very many local authorities through the devoted work of the Health Visitors, and especially the Senior Health Visitor. This very close personal touch will now be lost unless the Health Visitors are to become an integral part of any children's service that may be set up.

11. DRIED FOODS.

One point should be mentioned as it gave rise to great anxiety to the mothers and to the department. I refer to the great shortage of dried milk foods which obtained for a time in the early autumn. Primarily this was due to the long drought, but the position became so acute that even at the Welfare Centre we had our allocations considerably reduced. The difficulty was made worse by the fact that mothers from outside the borough came to the clinic to buy food, thus lessening an already diminished supply to the mothers and babies of the Borough for whom the clinic had been set up.

12. VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

Once more it is my privilege to thank the voluntary workers at our clinic for the help they have given us in the past years. We shall still need their assistance in the new service and knowing them, I feel that we can be certain of obtaining it.

SECTION E.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE.

(a) WATER.—The drought had its effect on the town's water supply particularly at Boscathnoe where at one time the very high temperature and small supply contributed to a multiplication of organisms which for a short period was alarming. However, in general, supply was well maintained.

(i) *Boscathnoe Reservoir*.—The system here compared with the very modern and excellent plant at Drift on which I commented last year, is not entirely satisfactory and having regard to the sources of supply and the intermittent contamination which occurs, reliance should not be placed on chloramination alone. Adequate filters are essential if this portion of the town's plant is to play its full part in the general supply, and the small reservoir should be replaced by a properly covered service reservoir.

(ii) *Cornwall Water Survey*.—During the year the report was published on the survey of the County's water services carried out by the Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Binnie, Deacon, and Gourley. For the Land's End area it is suggested that the main supply should come from the Penzance Waterworks including Boscathnoe. The report was accepted by the Council and arrangements were put in hand for ascertaining the suitability of the valley at Drift to carry a reservoir with a capacity of 300 m.g. By the end of the year trial holes had proved that hard rock could be reached at a shallow depth on the sides of the valley, but the position was not so satisfactory in the middle.

The following is the estimate of houses (a) now without a water supply in the borough and (b) those with a stand pipe supply only, and (c) with mains supply:

No public supply	From Public Standpipe	Mains supply
31	123	5,684

The number of samples taken for analysis was as follows:

Samples	Drift		Supplies		Others Domestic	Private Domestic
	Domestic	Works	Boscathnoe Domestic	Works		
Raw	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	7	4
Treated	11	Nil	1	48	7	1
Chemical	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Plumbo- solvency	2	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

(b) SEWERAGE. The following extensions of existing main sewerage were installed:

(a) Paul disposal plant.

(b) New connection to village of Paul

An inquiry into the Council's application for loan sanction for the Lariggan and Gulval sewerage schemes was held in September by one of the Ministry's engineers. The schemes both envisaged disintegrating chambers at the end of the trunk sewers before pumping to the sea outfalls. The Ministry's eventual decision was not in favour of these disintegrators.

However, it must be stated that on public health grounds and having regard to the currents (or lack of them) in the land-locked portion of Mounts Bay known as Gwavas Lake, it is not satisfactory to run sewage into the sea near bathing beaches without any form of treatment whatever. It is quite true that to change it will mean very great cost and that this method obtains over many areas round our coasts, but surely that is no argument for continuing to perpetrate what is an offence against hygiene.

During the year owing to the very justified complaints on inadequacy and resulting nuisance the sewerage of the village of Paul was greatly improved by installing a large septic tank, the purified effluent only being run into the stream. The urgent need now is for a proper sewerage system for the hamlet of Sheffield as the present arrangements need drastic alteration.

2. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—On the whole this was a year of diminished incidence, but it was remarkable for the epidemic of poliomyelitis which affected the country for several months. The disease is much more satisfactorily called by its proper name or polio for short (as in U.S.A.), than the usual one of infantile paralysis which is indeed a misnomer when adults are affected.

Starting really in May the disease had almost too good a Press and though a widespread epidemic naturally attracts considerable attention we should retain our sense of proportion, as in all, only 8,500 cases in the whole country were diagnosed in the seven months to the end of December. This is less than the number injured on the roads *in one month*, even with present restrictions. No case was notified during the year in Penzance.

As far as the Epidemiology of this disease is concerned there have been various theories as to its spread, droplet infection, flies, human excreta, etc., but the points which seem to be of particular interest as far as this epidemic is concerned are (i) that at least one-third of all the cases were adults and more than this proportion of fatal cases. This seems to point to an introduction of a new infection to a relatively unsalted population, or, the sudden exaltation in virulence of the usual virus; (ii) that if any of the usual methods of spread are to be incriminated it is important to point out that the months of greatest incidence were two of the best months from a holiday-makers point of view for many years, and that during these months an enormous interchange of population occurred through people going or returning from holidays. Never were the 'buses or trains more crowded—"packed like sardines" was a common expression—and therefore never were the opportunities better of person to person spread, yet the incidence bore very little, if any, relation to this packed humanity.

It seems that it would be advisable to throw overboard most of the preconceived notions, and bearing in mind that at times of peak incidence there is a number of healthy carriers who may excrete the virus either orally or in the faeces for several weeks ensure that at such times there should be a reduction in excessive sporting activities particularly in adolescents and young adults as there does seem to be some evidence that excessive exercise, tends to reduce resistance to the disease. The need also for care in handling of food in food preparing premises is a lesson which must be rammed home regardless of cost.

The campaign against diphtheria was continued at a steady rate as the following table shows, but it is still important to point out that according to our records only 50 per cent or so of all babies born in the Borough have been given this beneficial start. Further it seems that many parents are unaware of the need for "refresher doses" for school children, both at entry, and about age nine to eleven years.

Immunised during 1947		Total immunised from 1941 up to December 1947	
Under 1 year	Over 1 year	Refresher Doses	Under 15 years of age
199	6	48	3,513

The following table gives the number of infectious diseases notified during the year 1947; for comparison, the figures for 1946 are given in brackets.

Disease	Total number notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Diphtheria	2 (10)	2 (10)	Nil (1)
Scarlet fever	2 (8)	1 (1)	Nil (Nil)
Measles	117 (2)	Nil (Nil)	Nil (Nil)
Cerebro-spinal fever	1 (1)	Nil (1)	Nil (Nil)
Whooping cough	1 (Nil)	Nil (Nil)	Nil (Nil)

Table showing the age incidence of each disease notified:

Disease	0-1 years	1-5 years	5-15 years	15-25 years	25-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	Diagnosis Revised
Diphtheria ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2*
Scarlet fever ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	Nil
Measles ...	16	28	71	—	1	—	1	Nil
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	Nil
Whooping cough	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

* Final diagnosis—Tonsillitis.

3. TUBERCULOSIS: New cases and mortality during 1947:

Age Periods			Respiratory				Non-Respiratory			
			New M.	Cases F.	Deaths M.	Deaths F.	New M.	Cases F.	Deaths M.	Deaths F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	1	5	4	—	—	—	—	—
35	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and over	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Total	...	...	5	12	5	3	—	—	—	—

4. HOUSING.—Progress in the provision of new houses has been very slow due to delays and restrictions of supplies, and the ever lengthening list is there like a skeleton at the feast of complacency. The slow progress of building is the more to be deplored as the need for the restarting of slum clearance is everywhere clamant.

Last year I hinted at the unsatisfactory condition of some houses but now it must be stated that in this town there is a considerable number of slum houses and a still larger number of sub-1936 standards which require clearance. These facts must be faced particularly in Newlyn, where a proper redevelopment scheme is urgently needed and no amount of artistic merit should be allowed to deprive the people of the amenities which so many of their fellows now enjoy.

One point which is pertinent as regards official policy is to enquire why it is that houses condemned before the war should be allowed to be let to agricultural workers under licence when persons on the points system are housed up to standard. This practice of Governmental recognition of rehousing in condemned property, which is what this amounts to, should cease forthwith.

The following Table gives details of houses under control of the Housing Committee as at the end of the year:

	Occupied	Under repair	Allocated	Awaiting Allocation	TOTAL
Parc Wartha	58	—	—	—	58
Penalverne	155	—	—	—	155
Gwavas	241	—	1	—	242
Treneere	351	—	1	—	352
Temporary Bungalows (Treneere & Cherry Gardens)	50	—	—	—	50
Miscellaneous (Tenancies) ...	8	1	—	—	9
Finance Properties	20	1	—	—	21
Quarterly and monthly Tenancies	13	—	—	—	13
Requisitioned houses ...	71	—	—	2	73
TOTAL	967	2	2	2	973

The number on the Council's waiting list at the end of 1947 is: 1,284.

Number of houses built by the Council during the year: 36.

5. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT.—During the year the County District Councils received the County Council's proposals under Sections 20-29 of the Act. The proposals are briefly summarised in the appendix but here it should be pointed out that a number of representations was made by this council to the Minister covering various points, some of which have been met.

It is unfortunate, however, that the financial crisis has caused postponement of consideration of the question of Health Centres, as in a county like Cornwall it becomes immediately a matter of major policy as to where the Health Centres are to be. After this comes the great problem of obtaining suitable sites, and everyone knows or should know how difficult this is. The result is that unless the Ministry revise their policy very rapidly the Health Centres which were quite rightly to be such a feature of the new Act will remain in Whitehall pigeon-holes for an unconscionable time.

X 6. ABATTOIR.—For many years the slaughterhouses in the town have been unsatisfactory both in design and facilities, and after local agitation about the conditions here, correspondence in the national papers, and questions in the House, the Ministry of Food who are at present in control of slaughterhouses first decided to close all the slaughterhouses in the town, and then as the result of representations, held an inquiry on February 6th the consequence of which was that one was closed and alterations and improvements which are temporarily satisfactory were made to the other three. At the inquiry, representatives of all the local authorities in the area attended together with members of other responsible bodies. (This point is important as the subsequent progress has been bedevilled by boundary considerations.)

In response to a question regarding the Government's policy the Minister made a statement in the House in August which briefly was to the effect that though the Government's policy on slaughterhouses was not settled, where conditions were known not to be entirely satisfactory and where it would clearly fit in with any long term policy, local authorities would be encouraged to go ahead with plans for the erection of abattoirs.

Subsequently as the result of a visit by a Senior Official of the Ministry of Food the Council considered the question of the provision of an abattoir and approved it in principle and after an invitation, a deputation attended at Colwyn Bay in January, 1948, and then the other authorities were informed of the position at that time. As a consequence there has been a considerable degree of disgruntlement among the other councils in this area that they were not informed earlier of what was going on.

In retrospect, it was perhaps unfortunate that the other local authorities did not participate in the deputation but it should be stressed that the Ministry were concerned with the slaughterhouses in the Borough of Penzance.

7. FOOD AND NUTRITION.—A good deal of super scientific language is talked about calories at the present time to show that in terms of these we are getting as much as we did before the war. In the gross this is no doubt true in that by rationing there is a considerable levelling up, and persons who before the war could not afford to buy milk for their children are now buying or paying for it by means of meals and milk in schools, both of which have done an immense amount to improve the nutrition and physique of school children.

For adults, the argument can, however, be carried too far, as it is possible in terms of calories to state that if we all ate 10 lbs. of potatoes per day we should have the highest number of calories per person in the world. This is an obvious absurdity as the *balancing* of the diet is a fundamental necessity and this means also adequate fats, from the shortage of which the whole world is suffering.

If therefore any sort of long term planning is either in force or projected for feeding the population of Britain, it is axiomatic that no good agricultural land is taken for defence activities unless the public is shown that it is not possible to do anything else. Land that has been farmed for hundreds of years should not be used for battle schools when deer forests and grouse moors would be very much more suitable in every way.

Surely also in Cornwall some attempt might be made to rehabilitate the ground over the old mine workings. All too evident are the derelict buildings and mine dumps where vermin such as foxes breed, and with numerous shafts to act as death traps for human beings and useful animals. A well intentioned gentleman with a bulldozer could do a great deal of good in preparing such ground for seeding for grass, or even rough pasture, and the County Agricultural Executive Committee might at least attempt such an improvement in selected areas in the county as they certainly could not do any harm and might do a great deal of good while at the same time they would remove what are nothing but eyesores.

Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector

The following Table summarises the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:

COMPLAINTS	Received and dealt with		Informal Notice	Statutory Notice		Remaining			
	251		47	Nil	20				
INSPECTIONS (a) GENERAL	Under Public Health Act	Houses Under Housing Act	Other Premises	Under Factory Act	Under Shops Act	Nuisances	Food Preparing Premises	Dairies and Cowsheds	Miscellaneous
	147	246	735	82	583	164	849	189	725
(b) W.C.s	Inspected	Found defective	New provision	Repaired					
	39	11	13	7					
(c) DRAINS	Inspected	Found defective	Tested	Repaired					
	255	79	61	62					
SAMPLING (a) MILK	Number Bact. T.B.	Designated Passed	Undesignated Good	Tuberculosis Pos.	Neg.				
	140	8	83	1	49				
(b) ICE CREAM	Number	Grade 1	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV				
	105	10	24	32	39				
(c) WATER BACTERIOLOGICAL	Number	Raw Satis.	Treated Satis.						
	79	12	62	5					
CHEMICAL	Number								
	2								

The following visits were paid in connection with meat and food inspection:

Food stores and shops	...	...	537
Markets	...	...	397
Fish markets, stalls and stores	...	...	81
Food preparing premises	...	...	108
Slaughterhouses	...	...	2,031

The number of animals slaughtered and inspected was as follows:

Bovine animals	...	...	2,964
Sheep and lambs	...	...	3,477
Calves	...	...	2,082
Pigs	...	...	50
TOTAL	...	...	8,573

52

1

The following table gives particulars of meat rejected during the year as being unfit for human consumption:

	Bovine	Sheep and Lambs	Calves	Pigs
TUBERCULOSIS:				
Carcases and Viscera ...	148	—	—	—
Parts of Carcases ...	100	—	—	4
Lungs ...	418	—	2	1
Other organs ...	442	—	5	—
SEPTIC, PYAEMIC AND FEVER CONDITIONS:				
Carcases and Viscera ...	6	—	1	1
BRUISING:				
Parts of Carcases ...	9	2	—	—
Other carcase meat ...	534 lbs.	12 lbs.	—	—
PUTREFACTION, DECOM- POSITION, BONE TAINT, ETC.:				
Carcase meat ...	495 lbs.	—	—	—
Organs ...	—	163	—	—
CIRRHOISIS AND FLUKES:				
Livers ...	622	257	—	—
MASTITIS:				
Udders ...	181	—	—	—
OTHER DISEASES AND CONDITIONS:				
Carcases and Viscera ...	36	6	1	—
Parts of carcasses ...	4	3	—	—
Other carcase meat ...	100 lbs.	8 lbs.	—	—
Organs ...	432	159	1	—

The following table gives particulars of other food rejected during the year:

Rationed Goods	Weight T. C. Q. L.	Unrationed Goods	Weight T. C. Q. L.
Bacon	1 23	Whale meat	2 24
Cheese	4 1 12	Wet fish	3 15 0 0
Sugar	2 11	Smoked & cured fish	4 1 18
Tea	8	Poultry	4 Guinea Fowl
Dried fruit	4 0 10	Sausages, sausage meat, black puddings	1 11
Dried peas	3 5	Vegetables	2 0
Marmalade, jam, & syrup	2 1 9½	Gelatine	4
Flour	6 2 24	Jars of fish	29 jars
Cereals	20 pkts.	Soup, gravy mixture, etc.	148 packets
Biscuits	27	Pickles & sauces	20 jars
Chocolates & Sweets	10½	Cake & pudding mixture	12 packets
Potatoes	7 0 0 0	Xmas pudding	1
Canned Goods ...		... 1,891 tins	

MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION:

A survey was made of all premises where milk is produced, 59 inspections being made for the purpose. In addition 130 inspections of dairy premises were carried out.

During the year 140 milk samples were submitted to the Pathological Department, Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, for bacteriological examination and 50 for tests for the presence of tubercle bacilli. The results are set out in the following table:

Total No. of Samples	Failed M.B. Test	Percentage failed	No. found to contain B. Coli	Percentage	(-)ve T.B.	(+)ve T.B.
Bact. 140	49	35	19	13.5	—	—
T.B. 50	—	—	—	—	49	1

The number failing the Methylene Blue test is high and it is significant to note that the bulk of failures occurred in the spring and autumn, *i.e.*, at the time when the producers were also busily engaged with sowing and reaping operations. A strong argument can be educed by those who advocate the separation of dairy farming from that of general horticulture, as during investigations into failures which occurred in the spring some farmers admitted that as a result of the very severe winter they were behind with planting of crops and other work had to be neglected.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947.—The coming into operation of the above regulations stimulated interest in the manufacture of a very popular commodity and it was very gratifying to find that almost without exception people in the trade showed a ready willingness to co-operate in securing that the spirit of the regulations should be carried out as far as limitations of supply of equipment would allow. Fifty-three visits were made to manufacturing premises for purposes of the regulations and in addition 118 visits were made to premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the sale of ice cream.

During the season 105 samples of ice cream were examined in the Pathological Department of the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, and the following table shows the results obtained:

Provisional Grade I	...	...	10	Rec 50 90
„ „ II	...	...	24	80
„ „ III	...	...	32	20
„ „ IV	...	...	39	Rec

From this it will be seen that only one-third of the samples could be regarded as satisfactory.

Investigations into persistent failures led to the conclusion that until adequate cooling apparatus was available better results could not be expected.

RODENT CONTROL.—One full-time Rodent Operative was employed during the year. Methods of treatment were strictly in accordance with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries recommendations and included poisoning and trapping.

Treatment was carried out until 30th September, 1947, under the terms of Ministry of Food Circular, N.S. 12, which in effect, provided a free service for dwelling houses, the Ministry contributing 60 per cent of the cost and the local rate fund being responsible for 40 per cent. In addition to treatment for surface infestation, two treatments of the sewers in the Borough were carried out and also a 10 per cent test “bait” of the whole system.

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out during the year 1947:

Premises treated in blocks	...	254
Treatment of sewers	... ..	2
Manholes baited	... ..	55
Pre-baits laid	... ..	11,282
Poison baits	... ..	1,645
Post baits	... ..	856
Rats killed by poison (estimate)	...	3,488
Premises trapped	... ..	33
Rats trapped	... ..	48
TOTAL RATS DESTROYED	...	3,536

SALVAGE OF WASTE MATERIALS.—During the year attempts were made to extend the organisation of the Salvage Department, and some appreciable improvements were secured. In waste paper alone the monthly average for the second half of the year showed an increase of one ton or 10 per cent on the figures for the first six months.

The following table gives a summary of the materials salvaged during the year.

Salvage	Weight	Value
Waste paper ...	132 tons	£850
Rags	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons	£44
Bones	20 tons	£75
String	6 cwts.	£6

In addition the Council have received a bonus of £30 from the Ministry of Supply in respect of collection of waste paper in excess of 80 per cent of the collections made during the preceding year.

The collection of kitchen waste has been carried out by local pig and poultry keepers and the council have assisted by placing out bins in certain localities. The monthly returns made by the collectors show that approximately 240 tons were collected during the year 1947.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—A weekly collection of refuse was maintained throughout the year, four refuse lorries being employed on this work, but more frequent collections were made from trade premises, the number of visits varying according to the season and to the nature of the business carried on. A fifth lorry was employed on refuse disposal work and street cleaning.

The estimated cost of refuse collection was approximately £5,000 and of refuse disposal £2,000.

Refuse disposal by the controlled tipping method was continued throughout the year at the Trereife tip but its life was nearly exhausted towards the end of the year, and an extensive survey was made throughout the area to find a suitable site for the continuance of controlled tipping as a permanent policy. Many sites within a radius of ten miles of the borough were inspected and by a process of elimination these were eventually reduced to two possibilities, viz., (a) Gwithian Lane, Hayle, and (b) Eastern Green, Penzance. Investigations into the relative costs of operation at the two sites showed that the long distance of haulage might render the former site uneconomical and negotiations were opened up with the owners for the use of the latter site.

APPENDIX

National Health Service Act

Part III

Summary of Proposals by the Cornwall
County Council

1. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) The County to be divided into seven areas with a sub-committee in each area responsible to the County Health Committee for the administration of the services to be provided under the Act. Representation on the Area Committee is to be:

- (a) by County Council members, 12 members of the Health Committee;
- (b) from the County District Councils forming the area in the proportion of 1 representative per 1,000 population;
- (c) 1 member to be appointed by each of the following:
 - (i) St. John Ambulance Brigade;
 - (ii) British Red Cross Society;
 - (iii) The County Nursing Association.

(b) Divisional Medical Officers to be appointed who will hold the combined post of Assistant County Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health to the County Districts comprised in each area. Except in two areas these Divisional Medical Officers are not also Assistant School Medical Officers. This area (Cornwall No. 1) consists of Penzance, and St. Ives Boroughs, West Penwith Rural District, and St. Just Urban District.

(c) In each area an area office to be set up together with the necessary clerical staff to cover all the services. The Chief Clerk to be the authorised officer under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts (as amended by National Health Service Act).

2. CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN,
SECTION 22.

- (a) Weekly ante-natal and infant welfare clinics to be held.
- (b) Consulting ante-natal and paediatric clinics also to be held weekly.

In Cornwall No. 1 area clinics to be held as follows:

(a) ANTE-NATAL:

Routine: Penzance	}	weekly	Consulting Penzance weekly
St. Ives			
Hayle			
St. Just			

(b) INFANT WELFARE CENTRES:

Routine: Penzance 3 weekly	}	Consulting Paediatric clinics Penzance weekly
St. Ives 1 weekly		
Hayle 1 weekly		
St. Just 1 fortnightly		

DENTAL CARE.—In view of the importance attached to the dental care of mothers and young children, the number of dentists at present employed by the County Council will be increased. The work will be carried out at various dental centres. The manufacture and repair of dentures will be carried out in a central county dental laboratory. For this area the centres are located as follows:

Penzance
St. Ives
Hayle

3. MIDWIFERY. SECTION 23.

One hundred and thirty eight District Midwives to be employed by the Local Authority; supervision by an assistant superintendent in each of the administrative areas.

For Cornwall No. 1 area it is proposed to employ the staff as follows:

PARISHES	NURSES			Total
	D.N.,		Gen. & Midw.	
	Mid.	H.V.		
Hayle, Gwinear-Gwithian. St. Erth ...	3	—		3
Marazion, St. Hilary, Perranuthnoe ...	1	—		1
Ludgvan	1	—		1
St. Ives Borough, Zennor, Towednack	2	1		3
Madron, Sancreed	1	—		1
St. Just, U.D., Morvah	2	—		2
St. Levan, Sennen, St. Buryan, Paul ...	2	—		2
Penzance Borough	—	4		4
	12	5		17

4. HEALTH VISITING SERVICE. SECTION 24.

As it would be uneconomical to cover the whole of the County by whole-time Health Visitors, it is proposed to employ only 32, the rest of the Health Visiting being carried out by the District Nurse/Midwives as provided in (3) above.

For Cornwall No. 1 area five whole-time Health Visitors/School Nurses will be employed for Penzance, and one whole-time Health Visitor/School Nurse for St. Ives.

5. HOME NURSING SERVICE. SECTION 25.

As the Home Nursing Service in the county is at present carried out by the District Nurses it is proposed to continue this. For Area No. 1 the distribution is that shown under (3) above.

6. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION. SECTION 26.

Regular sessions for the immunisation of children under 5 to be held as part of the normal welfare centre sessions. The centres will be those with an immediate population of 2,000 and over. Otherwise in rural areas immunisation to be by arrangement with general practitioners except in exceptionally isolated areas when suitable arrangements for transport to a centre may be made.

Vaccination sessions will also be held as required at Infant Welfare Centres. All members of the staff will be encouraged to bring to the notice of parents the facilities available for the immunisation and vaccination of children.

7. AMBULANCE SERVICE. SECTION 27.

The arrangements will utilise the services of St. John's Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society to the limits of their capacity, but it is proposed to have paid staff for day duty from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays, and to rely on the services of the voluntary workers at night and at weekends. The hospital car service organisation will continue, but it will be integrated into the new service. The divisional areas already mentioned will be divided into (a) main centres—manned by paid staff as above and (b) country centres manned entirely by voluntary staff. All drivers and attendants to hold an approved First Aid Certificate and to be interchangeable in their duties. If necessary whole-time staff can be increased to 100 (at present 25) and up to 12 sitting case cars provided. For Area No. 1 the main centre will be at Penzance, and country centres will be at St. Ives, Pendeen and Goldsithney. A whole-time driver will be provided also in the Hayle/St. Ives area.

8. SECTIONS 28 and 51. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

A Mental Health Sub-Committee will carry out the detailed administration of the service centrally; a Psychiatrist to be appointed to co-ordinate this service but to be responsible to the County Medical Officer.

The Chief Clerks in the Divisional Offices to be authorised officers to carry out the work under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts. Three psychiatric social workers to be appointed who in addition to duties under the proposals will also carry out work for the Education Committee for the Child Guidance Service.

As far as the training of mental defectives is concerned it is not proposed to provide any occupational or industrial centres at present.

9. SECTION 28. CARE AND AFTER CARE OF ILLNESS.

There will be integration of the work of the specialists of the Regional Hospital Board with the Local Authority's Service especially in the case of tuberculosis. After care arrangements for other illnesses to be similar. Nursing equipment and apparatus to be loaned or hired to patients who are being nursed at home. Stocks of such apparatus to be kept in the area offices. Continuous health education will be organised centrally, but the Divisional Medical Officers will also be responsible together with the other area staffs.

SECTION 29. DOMESTIC HELP.

- (a) General administrative arrangements as for other services.
- (b) The County proposed to appoint a County Organiser but to delegate the day-to-day administration to the area committees.
- (c) Whole-time domestic helps to be appointed in the principal towns and the services of part-time helps to be utilised in the rural areas.

For Cornwall No. 1 area, whole-time helps will be employed as follows:

Penzance	2
St. Ives	1

The Penzance Printing Co. Ltd.,
Penzance.